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MICROLINKS SEMINAR SERIES | Exploring Frontiers in Inclusive Market Development

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Eliot Levine
Mercy Corps



Sasha Muench
Mercy Corps

Microlinks Seminar #20

Is Market Systems Development Inherently a Resilience Approach?





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Eliot Levine

Mercy Corps

Eliot Levine is a Senior Technical Advisor on Mercy Corps' Environment, Energy and Climate Technical Support Unit. In that position, he serves as the focal point for climate change adaptation while playing a key role in the agency's global resilience initiative. In addition to providing technical support on the integration of climate and environment considerations into Mercy Corps' development programming, Eliot's work focuses on the development of a strategic resilience assessment approach for applying a resilience lens to strategy development and program design. Before joining Mercy Corps, Eliot spent eight years at World Wildlife Fund working on climate adaptation across Asia, Africa and Latin America. At WWF his work had three themes within the broader field of climate change adaptation: vulnerability assessments, capacity building, and climate-adaptive institutions.



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Sasha Muench

Mercy Corps

Sasha Muench is Director of Economic and Market Development for Mercy Corps, where she provides institutional leadership and program support on all aspects of economic development for Mercy Corps globally. In particular, Sasha is driving the expansion of Mercy Corps' market-driven programming and private sector engagement. She has over 20 years of international development experience, primarily in the areas of economic and market development, financial services provision, enterprise development, private sector engagement, and community revitalization in transitional environments. Sasha spent four years in Indonesia working on economic development and post-tsunami recovery and three years in Bosnia working on microfinance and post-conflict economic recovery. She currently sits on the Board of Directors of the SEEP Network and is a founding member of the Markets in Crises Community of Practice. Sasha has a B.A. in economics and international relations from Claremont McKenna College and an M.A. in economics from the University of British Columbia.

A black and white photograph of a group of people, likely farmers, working in a flooded field. In the foreground, a woman wearing a wide-brimmed straw hat and a dark jacket is smiling at the camera. She has white powder or clay applied to her cheeks. In the background, several other people are working in the water, some using tools. The field is filled with tall grass or reeds.

**IS MARKET SYSTEMS
DEVELOPMENT INHERENTLY
A RESILIENCE APPROACH?**

Key messages

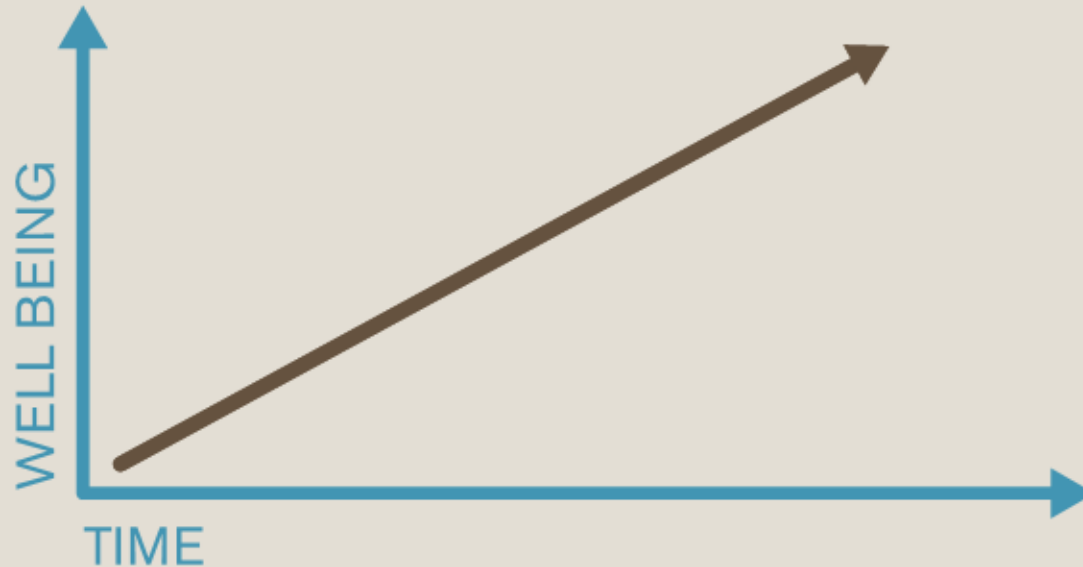
1. Market Systems Development (MSD) does not automatically increase resilience.
2. Resilience is more than just increased income and productivity.
3. MSD can support resilience efforts if it is intentional.
4. MSD and Resilience share common principles.

WHY RESILIENCE NOW?





In a perfect world...

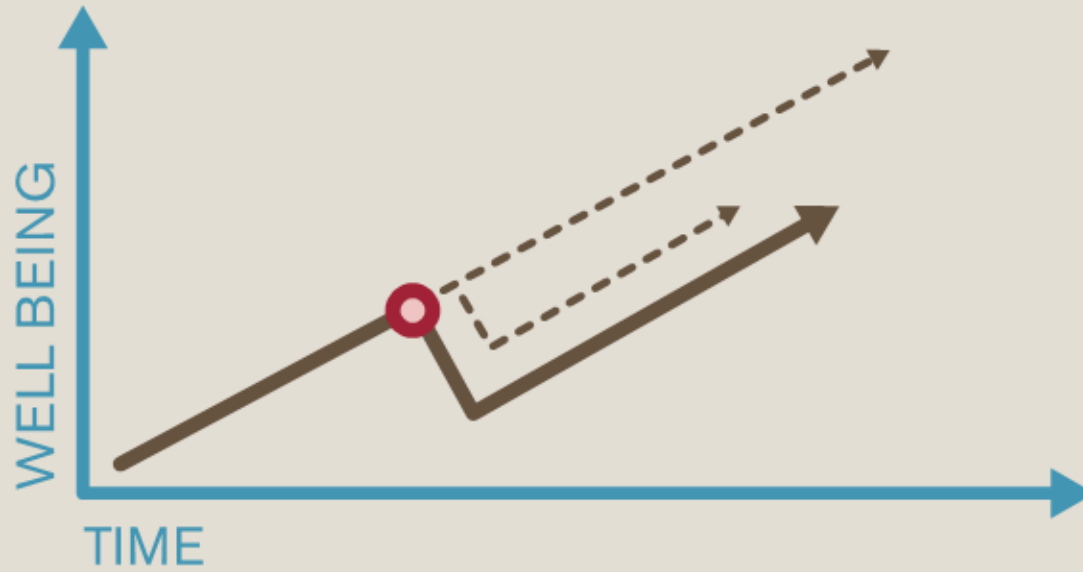


In reality...



WHAT IS RESILIENCE?





RESILIENCE

The capacity of communities in complex socio-ecological systems to learn, cope, adapt, and transform in the face of shocks and stresses.



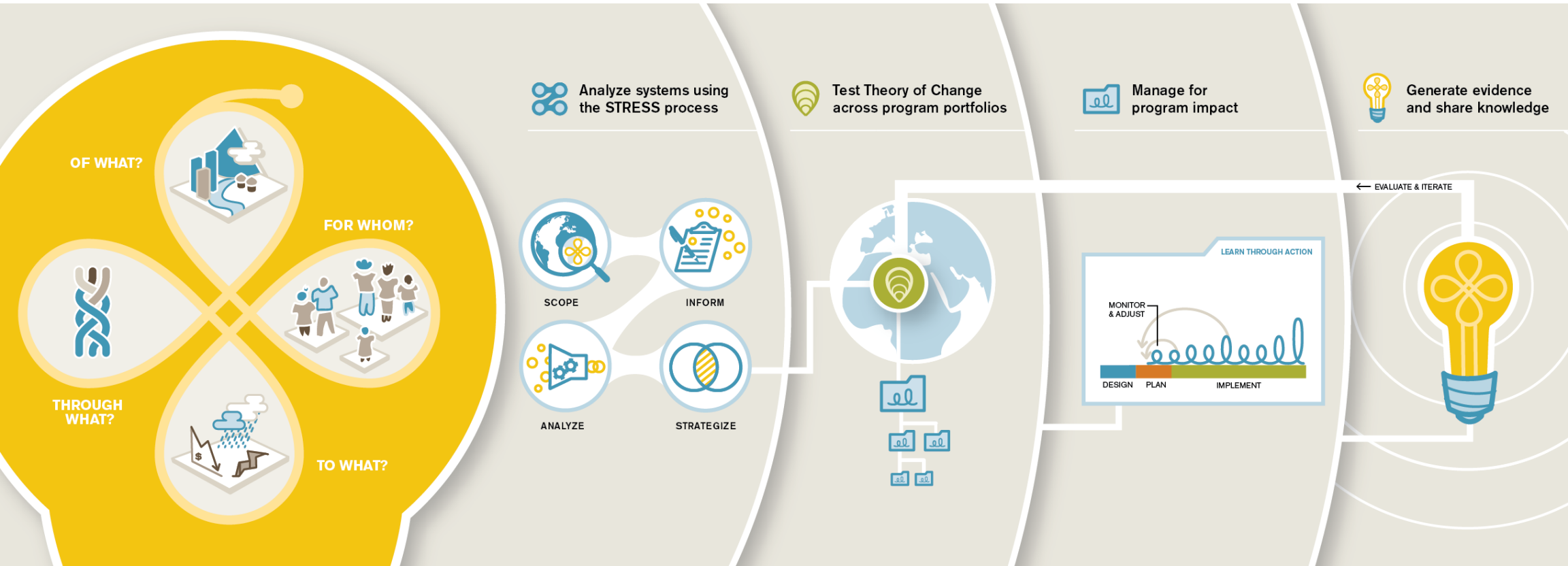


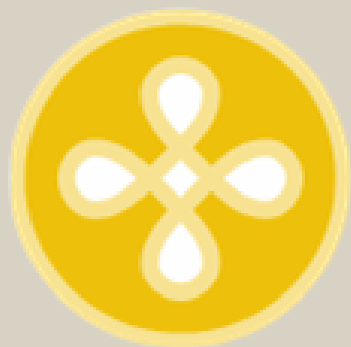
MERCY CORPS RESILIENCE APPROACH



RESILIENCE AT MERCY CORPS | 2015

Our Resilience Framework





**QUESTIONS &
CAPACITIES**



Four resilience questions and three capacities



Resilience

OF WHAT?



Of what?



RESILIENCE AT MERCY CORPS | 2015



Resilience

FOR WHOM?



Resilience



TO WHAT?

To what?



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Resilience



THROUGH
WHAT?

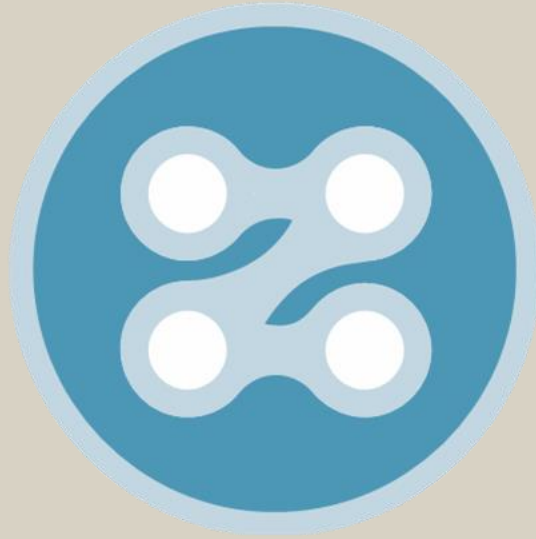
Through what?



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Applying Resilience Thinking





STRESS

Analyze systems through strategic resilience assessments (STRESS)





ToC

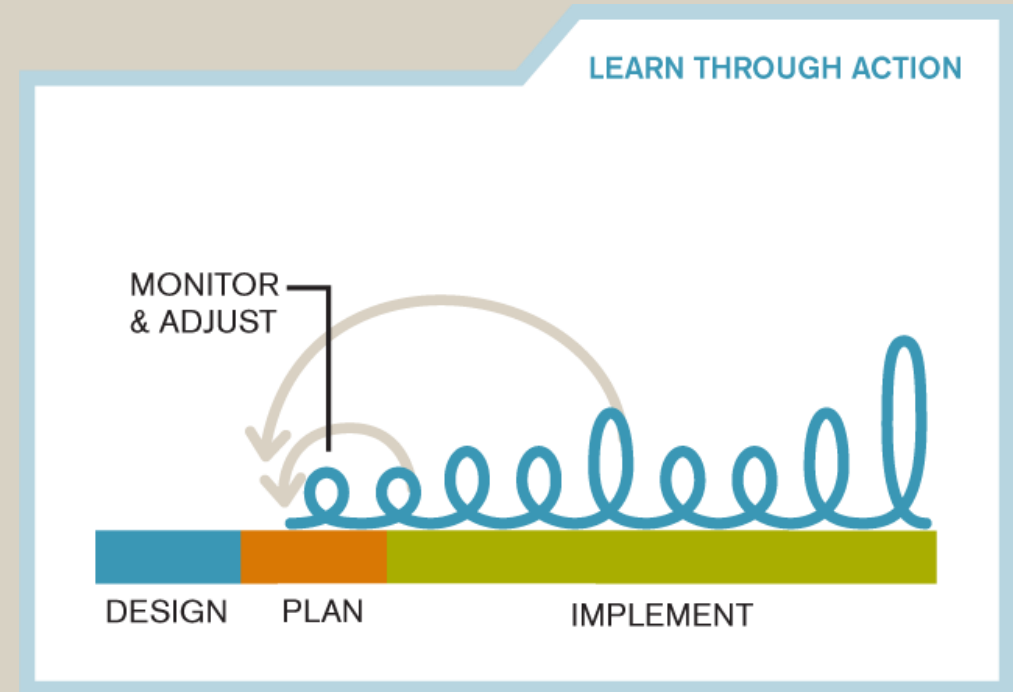
Test and analyze ToCs through program portfolios





Manage for Program Impact

Adaptive management to learn through action





**Generate and
Share Knowledge**

Prioritize evidence-based learning to increase impact and wellbeing



**Revitalizing Agriculture
Incomes and New
Markets (RAIN)
Uganda**

**Managing Risk
Through Economic
Development
(M-RED) Nepal**



Combining MSD and Resilience



Saving and improving lives in the world's toughest places.

GOAL: Stimulate economic prosperity and food security in northern Uganda by improving the performance of the agriculture sector



Productivity
and
profitability
of
smallholder
farmers



Input/output
Agribusiness
performance



Access to
rural
financial
services



Project Numbers

4 districts

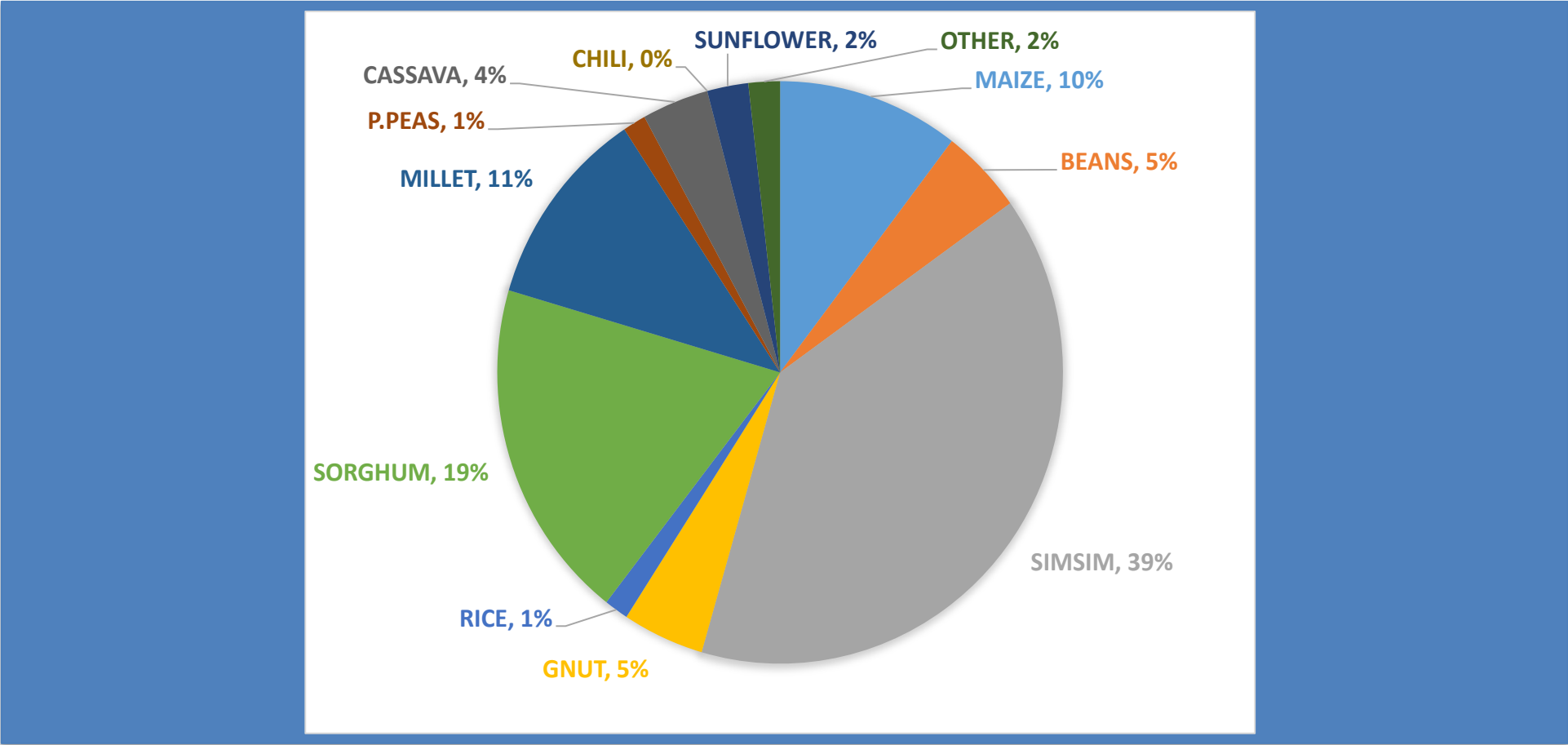
5 financial institutions

130 agribusinesses

600 VSLAs

60,000 farmers

Proportion of Cultivated Land Allocated to Various
Crops in RAIN Program Area



Positive Impacts

- **Average 80% increase in farmer income.**
- Visible crowding in of suppliers, buyers, financial institutions, agents.
- Many new relationships formed.
- Emergence of associations of farmers and agents.



Unexpected Negative Impacts

- Food insecurity - farmers reduced production of food crops to produce and sell sesame.
- Levels of malnutrition still prevalent.
- Overreliance on sesame - single international market system, drought risk.



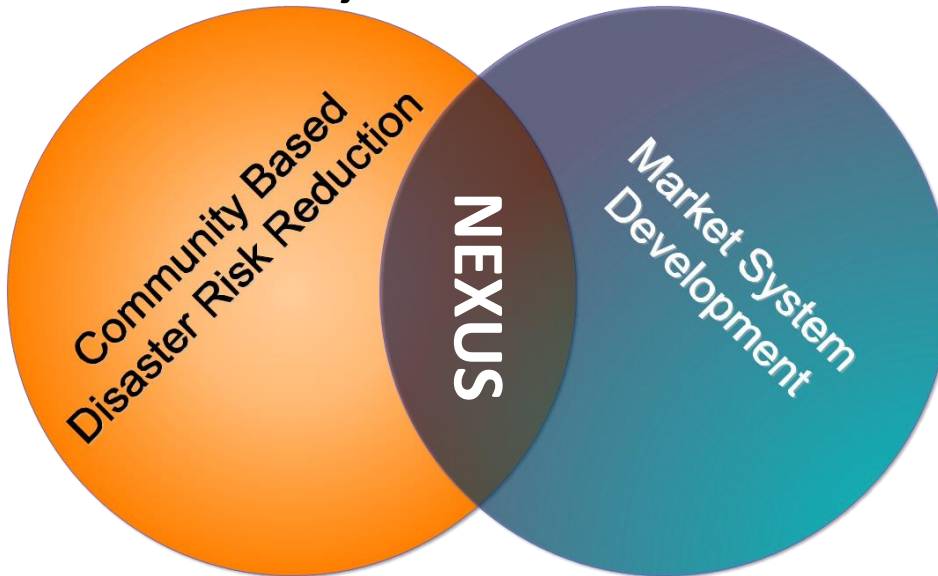
Market Systems Development does not automatically lead to increased Resilience



**Resilience is more than just increased
income and productivity**

Approach: incentivize disaster risk reduction

INTEGRATED, SYSTEMS APPROACH



Theory of Change: if we promote crops and techniques that **both mitigate hazard risks and provide economic incentive**, then actors **will work together to sustain risk reduction** on their own.



M-RED Nepal:

‘NEXUS’ INTERVENTION: SUGARCANE



Market System Development and Resilience March 2015

'NEXUS' INTERVENTION:



DAIRY



MSD can support resilience efforts if it is intentional



MSD and Resilience both require longer time frames to achieve outcomes

Evidence of market system change:

Increased growth and access.
Private sector investment and crowding in.
Government replication, adoption, expansion.

Evidence of resilience:

How well communities and systems absorb, adapt and transform in the face of recurring shocks.



Thank You



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Thank you for joining us!



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